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Pamela Coyle

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West Virginia LIBRARIES

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October 2005

WVLA Annual Conference – Part I

Summaries by Jane Levitan

Every Child Ready to Read Early Literacy Workshop

Presented by Terri McDougal, Head of Children's Services, Kanawha County Public Library.

As librarians we are partners with parents and the school systems in encouraging and insuring children are ready to read. We can help accomplish this through our library story times. Luckily for us PLA has already developed the information we will need to meet this challenging goal. "Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library" is available online at <http://www.pla.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm>

Ms. McDougal identified the six skills that are necessary for a child to learn to read: print motivation, vocabulary, print awareness, letter knowledge, narrative skills and phonological awareness. We can relax. Most of these are currently included in our story times but check out the website and see the how's and why's. You will find everything from brain scans and synapse charts to power point demonstrations pre-produced to convince even the most hardened skeptics.

If you are a children's librarian, you will never doubt your importance to early literacy again.

Children's Services Programming Idea Exchange & Children's Services Roundtable Meeting

Presented by Terri McDougal and Linda Hedding

Have you ever really thought of presenting a programming entitled "Oooh That's Gross"? You might after attending this session and finding out about the attendance, especially from the hard to entice 5th grade boys. The totally gross books are hiding on all of our book shelves. The snacks are made by the participants...you

need to ask Terri and Linda about those, just in case anyone is reading this during lunch.

Actually there were rather simple ideas shared as well including a book display with a matching book bibliography. One of my favorites was "Off to School." This could be teamed with a story time for the new kindergarten attendees and a concurrent visit from the school principal for the waiting parents. There were also more involved programs featuring all night lock-ins with evening-long events. Whatever your programming budget and energies, there was something for everyone at this session.

The children's roundtable meeting flowed from the programming session. Suzy McGinley was on hand to talk about this Summer Reading Program, "Surfs Up" and next year's "Reading Road Trip."

Root Beer and Banana, Popsicles and Stories from the Heart

Presented by Sarah Sullivan

One of my favorite and perhaps most enjoyable aspects of the WVLA conferences is meeting new authors. Children's author Sarah Sullivan resident of Charleston, WV shared her life as a writer and

—continued on page 4

Bookmobile & Rural Library conference report

Read summaries
from the conference sessions
starting on page 8!



Martha Yancey (left) accepts the gavel passed from Penny Pugh.

**Watch for Part 2
of the WVLA
conference
coverage in our
December issue!**

Deadline for submissions is Nov. 15.

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A Message from the President



September 28, 2005

Dear Friends,

When I took office last year, I asked you all to lend your active support to WVLA—by encouraging colleagues to join, by attending events, by supporting your staff's involvement, and by serving on committees. And, boy, did you come through! I appreciate each and every contribution. Thanks are due to many individuals, both within WVLA and without. This month, I want to single out just a few who helped make our year so successful.

The support of the directors of some of our major libraries was crucial. Linda Wright at Kanawha County Public Library, Barbara Winters at Marshall University Library, Judy Rule at Cabell County Public Library, Pam Coyle at Martinsburg Public Library, and Frances O'Brien at WVU Libraries each provided support in numerous ways. I am very grateful for their ongoing interest in WVLA. Please be sure to thank them in person when you have the opportunity.

WVLA officers and committee members have also done a wonderful job. At this writing, we have 607 members, 92 of them brand new, and 65 new committee volunteers. The slate of candidates for our recent election was first-rate, with outstanding individuals running for every major office. Our legislative and public relations activities this year were excellent. Special thanks to Thelma Hutchins for outstanding service as treasurer, to Olivia Bravo for building membership, and to Judy Rule and Myra Ziegler for organizing our legislative days.

Best,
Penny

A Benefit for the Library: Fundraising

Summarized by David Porterfield

Larry Springer the Director of the Morgan County Public Library and John Douglas the editor of the *Morgan Messenger* newspaper presented great ideas on how to hold a successful library fundraiser by employing the talents of established and aspiring performers in your local community. To date, the Morgan County Public Library has financially benefited from two such events raising a total of about \$4,000.

The presenters stated some very clear guidelines which were adhered to closely when planning both fundraising events. Although the Morgan County Public Library was the focal point of all the activities and an essential criteria was that all the performances had to have literary and artistic merit, neither event was held in the library itself. Both presenters felt very strongly that these programs needed to be in small, intimate settings where people could relax with a favorite beverage, great food, and decadent desserts.

Limiting the size of the audience to a maximum of 50 or 60 people caused the residents in the community to sign-up very quickly and with both venues a waiting list was generated. Also, an effort was made to keep the price of both events as low as possible (\$25 and \$30 respectively).

All of the performers at both events were local residents and their talents ranged from singing, playing musical instruments, storytelling, and reading both original poems and excerpts from beloved literary works. At both fundraisers, each performer was asked to pay the admission price and in almost every instance this did not seem to be a problem. One explanation for this is that all the performers were patrons of the Morgan County Public Library and were happy to make a financial donation. Another explanation is that all of the entertainers were pleased to have the opportunity to share their talent and to enjoy the talent of others within the Berkeley Springs community.

The most unique aspects of this type of this type of fundraising event were that there were no initial expenditures and all the money raised for the library was clear profit. Advertising of these events was strictly limited to the library and the library's web page. Basically, word-of-mouth was a sufficient method of "selling out" these events and additional publicity was not necessary.

Larry and John constantly stressed the importance of finding the right locations in which to hold these fundraising events and were very fortunate to have the first at Tari's Café in Berkeley Springs and the second at the Troubadour Park and Stage in Highland Ridge. Both events had capacity audiences and were attended with great enthusiasm.

This type of benefit was successfully replicated by Shepherdstown Public Library.

As Larry Springer says, "This benefits the library and benefits the community with no costs to the library."

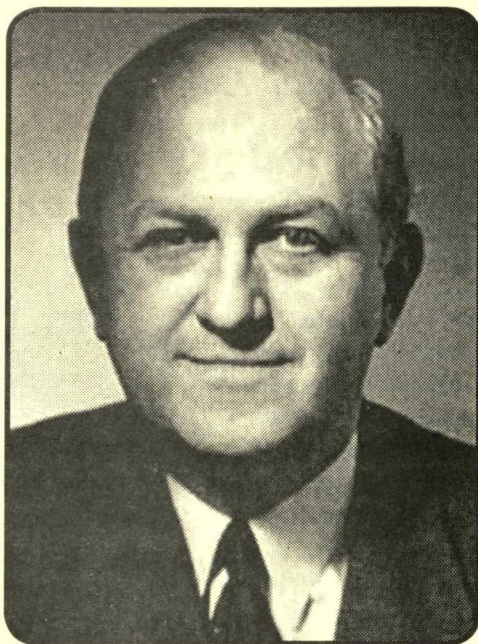
WLSC library receives gift from the Elbin family estate

The West Liberty State College Paul N. Elbin Library recently received a gift totaling more than \$250,000 from the Paul N. Elbin Estate to enhance the materials offered to WLSC students, faculty and the campus community.

According to Genny McIntyre, vice president for institutional advancement, this gift comes to the college in addition to a previous gifts given by Dr. Paul N. Elbin, president emeritus of West Liberty and his wife, Helen. "Upon Mrs. Elbin's death in 1996 the Foundation received half of their estate to establish an endowment fund for the library as well as Colonial Heights, the retirement home that the Elbins built on the West Liberty campus. This additional gift is just another example of the true commitment the Elbin's had to the students and community of West Liberty State College," said McIntyre.

The gift will allow the college to purchase new books to replace those that are outdated, adding to the largest print collection in the Northern Panhandle. It will allow for the updating of technology volumes, journals, literary reference books used by literature classes to conduct research on authors and stories, as well as updating best-seller selections.

"Considering the increase in technol-



Paul N. Elbin

ogy offered at the Library and the expense that comes along with that, this gift will allow for new books to really make our collection top notch, while providing students with another positive and educational - recreational outlet," said Richard H. Owens, Ph.D., president of West Liberty State College. He also added that the gift will assist with collection development,

—continued on page 7

Historical Issues of WV Libraries Online

Beth Toren, Web Services Librarian

I'm pleased to announce that the first few issues of our organization's newsletter, West Virginia Libraries, are now available on the WVLA web site.

I invite everyone to read these interesting and sometimes charming newsletters from 1947-1951. If you like this kind of thing, historical tidbits abound—For example, the first book mobile in West Virginia or the purchase of a "Recordak" for "Marshall College."

On a more serious side, we can clearly see the continuity of concerns—collections, facilities, services, funding, and getting the attention of the state government. Also, recruiting new library students and new librarians into the WVLA was important from the very beginning.

This is an ongoing project, and additional issues will be added. The links to the older issues of the newsletter are on the Newsletter page on the WVLA web site (<http://www.wvla.org/>) or go directly to the foot of the newsletter page at <http://www.wvla.org/newsletter/newsletter.htm>

You can also read recent issues of the newsletter there.

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WVLA's Web site: www.wvla.org

Conference summaries —continued from page 1

her wonderful picture books *Root Beer and Banana* and *DearBaby: Letters from Your Big Brother*. She showed her breakthrough poem "Poison Ivy" and described the world it opened to her. Considering a career as a children's author? Try the MFA program at Vermont College. It comes highly recommended by Sarah. Judging by Sarah's results, this program is very worthwhile and the campus is beautiful.

A Framework for Understanding Poverty

Sponsored by the Literacy Roundtable – Phyllis Pilewski and Lana Sammons, trainers.

This session was based on the renowned educator, author and speaker, Ruby Payne. Ms. Payne's book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* covers how economic class affects behaviors and mind-sets, why students from generational poverty often fight being educated, the "hidden rules" within a economic classes and the eight resources that make a difference in success. The trainers held an interactive session that offered thought provoking discussions on serving our patrons at the poverty level.

Whether the audiences agreed or disagreed with the thesis offered by the trainers, everyone agreed that serving our patrons at the poverty level is a challenge all in the library community needs to address.

Cataloging for Children and Their Parents

Presenter Sophie Bogdanski

I am not a cataloger, but you didn't have to be a cataloger to enjoy (yes, that was enjoy) and learn from this presentation. It is a fact that children love to use the online catalog. With the use of touch screens and a significant amount of help, children as young as kindergarteners can begin to find their own materials. By fourth grade, children can be proficient in online searching. The challenge for catalogers is to adapt the highly specific and proscribed cataloging rules to accommodate these young patrons and their thought processes. This was very interesting as well as informative.

The How's and Why's of a Lapsit Program

Presenter Carol Dindinger

What? A library program for infants? Yes! According to the presenter Carol Dindinger, it is a natural outgrowth from talking to your baby. In addition to having the conference participants using rhythm sticks to tap to "Chicken Fat," Carol invited members of her lapsit class (one as young as 11 months old) to demonstrate an abbreviated story time. Babies listened to stories, participated in activities and even helped clean up. What fun! Even crammed between stacks, babies learn and enjoy their first library experiences and the librarian can definitely have a wonderful time presenting a lapsit program. Give it a try!

Banquet Speaker, Asra Nomani

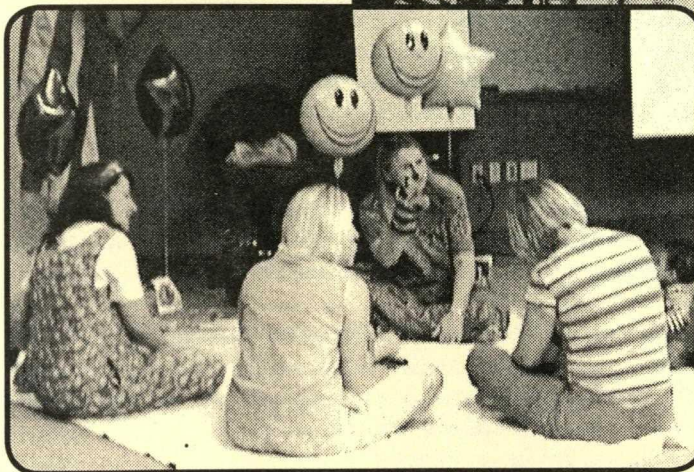
Asra Nomani, author of *Standing Alone in Mecca* delivered a wonderful, inspirational and informative post banquet presentation. Ms. Nomani introduced us to her younger self, a friendless immigrant girl transplanted from India to New Jersey. This child was rather disenfranchised until she rode her bike to the library and discovered that crime-solving girl detective Nancy Drew. After her move to Morgantown, WV, Asra continued her exploration of the library and its periodical collection. There she discovered "Harpers Magazine" where she completed her first internship. As a reporter at the *Wall Street Journal* stationed in Karachi, Pakistan, she bid farewell to Daniel Pearl on his ill fated mission to meet an informant. After the tragedy, she returned to Morgantown and eventually launched her book, *Standing Alone in Mecca* at the Morgantown Public Library. She thanked Sharon Turner and all the librarians that helped her continue her journey. She also encouraged librarians to aid in the journeys of other children finding confirmation through literature.

Reception a Rosebrake

What is the recipe for a great reception? Mix in one beautiful historic house, add a perfect Fall evening, stir in one chocolate fountain complete with goodies for dipping, fold in hospitable hosts and Library Commissioners, and finally blend librarians, friends and local officials. Let the mixture steep at room (and outdoor) temperature for a few hours. The result is perfection. Ask anyone who was there.

John Cuthbert and Kathryn McAteer enjoying the reception

Lapsit Program ▼



The following summaries are by Keith Hammersla

Serving Visually, Physically, and Reading-Impaired Students & Patrons

Stephen Prine, from the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress, and Cynthia Johnson, from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped at WV School for the Blind in Romney, discussed the free services that are available and the new national awareness campaign. These services are not only for sight-impaired individuals but also for persons with physical conditions such as paralysis, missing arms or hands, lack of muscle coordination, arthritis of the hands, or prolonged weakness which would prevent them from being able to hold a book. Audio equipment to listen to the materials is loaned free to eligible participants for as long as they are borrowing materials. Books, magazines and music scores are available in both Braille and recorded formats, as well as a new Web-Braille format made accessible with special equipment over the Internet. For more information, see the NLS website at <http://www.loc.gov/nls>.

Dealing with the Homeless

Colleen Smith, Past Director of the Martinsburg Homeless Coalition, stated that homeless people have the same thoughts as library staff and other patrons when they have an encounter with each other: Will this person try to bother me? Will this person try to steal from me?

Homeless people are normal people like the rest of us. They are not lazy—40% of homeless people have jobs, but other living expenses have prevented them from obtaining affordable housing. Other people with disabilities may have problems finding a job which will cover all of their living expenses. Many people with unstable housing conditions are constantly at risk of homelessness. Since many shelters do not allow residents to stay there during the day, many homeless people have no place to go, especially if the weather is not conducive to being outdoors.

Treat the homeless with respect, but do expect them to follow the same library rules as everyone else when they are in the library. Help to educate your library patrons about homelessness with appropriate materials, and be an advocate for other daytime activity centers in your community. Additionally, be supportive of fair wages for everyone and fair housing standards (see the universal living wage website at <http://www.universallivingwage.org>). For additional information, visit <http://nationalhomeless.org> and <http://www.endhomelessness.org>.

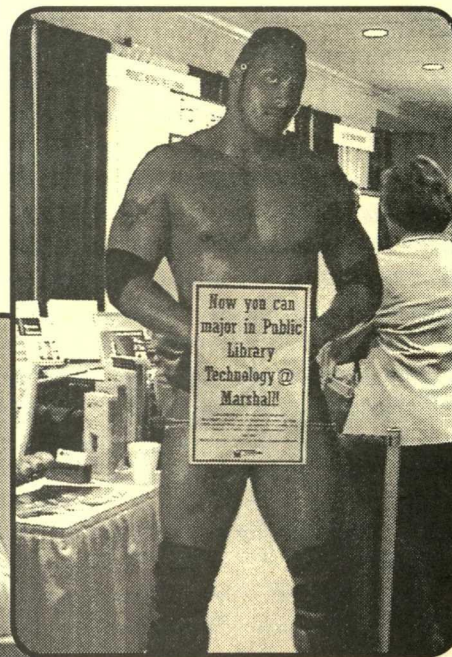
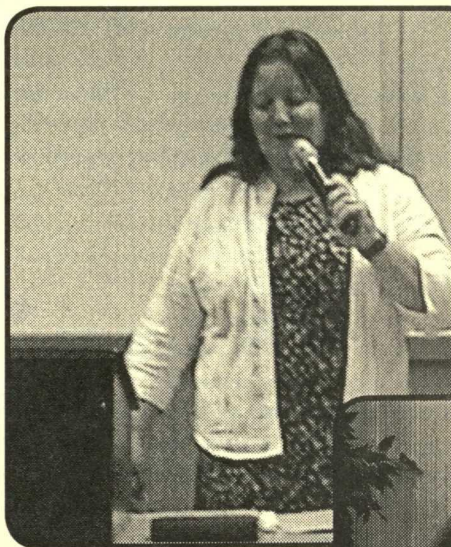
Drive by Usability: Making Sure Your Website Works

John Iliff, Library Technology Consultant at PALINET, proposes that libraries should test their website designs to be

sure that they are user-friendly. He suggested testing FIVE actual users of the website and asking them to complete a set of real tasks. Their accomplishment of a pre-determined percentage would establish success or failure of the website design. The testing methods would include a thinking-out-loud protocol (whereby the test subject should say everything he is thinking) and a question-asking protocol (which involves a facilitator asking relevant questions of the test subject). Other persons who should be involved in the testing, besides the end-user and the facilitator, are a recorder or notetaker, the web designer, public services staff, and information technology personnel. Don't expect immediate correction of all the flaws in your website's design the first time. Many small tests over time are best to eventually improve the design. Helpful websites are: <http://www.mylibrarian.com/wvla/use1.html>, <http://usability.gov>, and <http://www.useit.com>.

Marshall's new ad ▶

Colleen Smith ▼



▲ Kee Malesky (left) and Penny Pugh

DRS Library Celebrates Going Online

Note: This is the second in a series of profiles of West Virginia Special Libraries. Each article will highlight a special library collection from somewhere in the state.

People can now search for disability-related information through a new electronic card catalog on the Division of Rehabilitation Services' Web site, thanks to a \$6,800 grant from the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and a large material contribution from the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

"This grant made it possible for people to search our library's holdings on the Internet,"

Interim Director Janice Holland said. "The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation has gone a long way to make disability and rehabilitation information and resources available to the general public through Internet access."

The agency celebrated completion of the project at a July 20 reception at the agency's library in Institute.

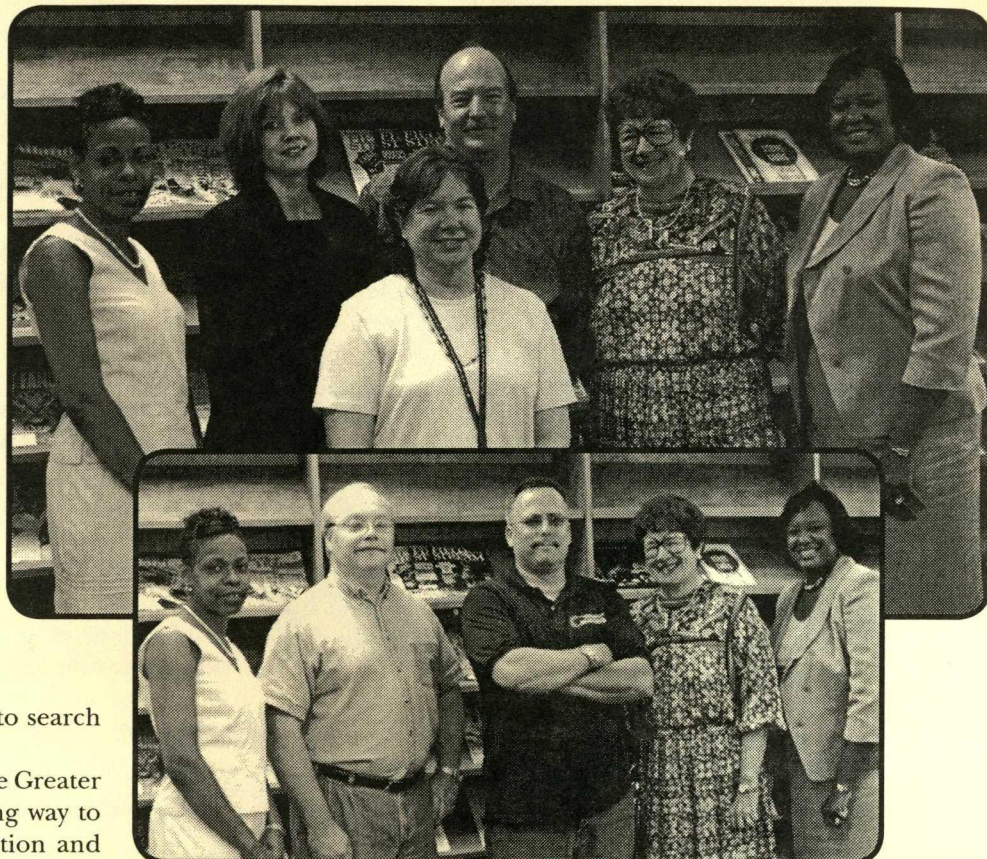
Collaboration between the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the West Virginia Library Commission made it possible to select a new library automation system and to go online. With the input from Harlan White, Director of Network Services for the Library Commission and his staff, this transition was a lot smoother.

Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Arts, stated, "As Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Arts, I'm extremely proud of the cooperation that was displayed between two of my agencies, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and the West Virginia Library Commission. The staffs of each agency worked together – in that old tag team approach – to make sure the library project became a reality. Such collaboration is what public service is all about."

Librarian Carol Johnson-Cyrus said citizens can now search for disability-related information through an electronic card catalog on the Internet at library.wvdrs.org. They can then request books and other resources at their local library through the inter-library loan system.

"Through this system, people with disabilities will be able to access information from anywhere," Johnson-Cyrus said. "We're grateful to the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation for helping us to achieve this."

At the reception, the agency also recognized the West Virginia Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for its contributions



Kay Goodwin, DRS staff, and WVLC technicians celebrate.



Back to the Future: PALINET Libraries at 70 and Beyond

**PALINET ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AND VENDOR FAIR 2005**

November 14-15, 2005

Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza Philadelphia, PA

www.palinet.org/2005conference

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Elbin Estate Gift —continued from page 3

providing funding for new editions each year.

Dr. Elbin began his relationship with West Liberty in 1928 when he became a faculty member. In 1935 he became president of West Liberty at age 30, the nation's youngest college president at that time, and served in this capacity for 35 years.

During his tenure as president, the college underwent many positive changes including expanded academic programs, major building expansion on campus and an increase in the college's outreach

to the local community. Some of the most notable changes include 58 years of radio broadcasts from WLSC via WWVA, the construction of four residence halls: Shotwell, Beta, Rogers and Hughes, the addition of Main Hall, College Hall, the health and physical education building, the Hall of Fine Arts, the establishment of the dental hygiene department, and the opening of "The Center," the first student union in the state. He also established the first computer lab, freshman orientation and parents' night programs at WLSC.

"Dr. Elbin made a true impact on West Liberty during his tenure and continues to do so through his planning and foresight. In 1984 he made arrangements by establishing a trust that provided life income for his wife and sister, Elizabeth. Upon their deaths, the funds were released from the trust to the WLSC Foundation, providing the opportunity West Liberty to continue offering students an outstanding living and learning environment," said Owens.

For more information on the Paul N. Elbin Library call 304-336-8035.

DRS Library online —continued from page 6

to the library. The commission donated \$28,000 of books, CDs and other materials to the DRS Library. Deanna Stone, the director, has pledged their continued support to keep the material for the deaf and hard of hearing up-to-date.

The DRS mission is to enable and empower people with disabilities to work and to live independently. For more information about the library call 304-766-4644 or visit the Web site at www.library.wvdrs.org

Novelist Mary Lee Settle dies at 87

Mary Lee Settle, novelist and founder of the PEN/Faulkner Award, died Tuesday at her home in Ivy after a battle with cancer. She was 87 years old. Settle wrote at least 17 works of fiction since her first novel, "The Love Eaters," was published in 1954. She also wrote nonfiction, plays and children's books. Novelist and friend of 43 years George Garrett said Settle's body of work is a "major contribution" to American literature. "She did some work that will last," said Garrett, a former University of Virginia English professor.

Settle, born in Charleston, W. Va., is best known for "The Beulah Quintet," a five-book series that chronicles the

development of the United States through the lives of fictional characters living in her home state. Settle received the National Book Award for fiction in 1978 for "Blood Tie," a novel about American and European expatriates living in Turkey. The book draws from three years Settle spent living in the country.

For more on Mary Lee Settle, read the full story by John Yellig, Daily Progress staff writer (email —eyellig@dailyprogress.com) at http://www.dailyprogress.com/servletSatellite?pagename=CDP%2FMSGArticle%2FCDP_BasicArticle

—Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Obituary

Edwin "Ed" Dean Rauh

Edwin "Ed" Dean Rauh, 60, of Ravenswood died October 4, 2005.

Ed always supported WVLA activities from behind the scenes from helping to set up the annual legislative appreciation day dinner to mentoring many prospective MLS students. He always encouraged staff and friends to pursue their education.

Suzi McGinley says, "First and foremost, Ed was committed to serving the public. He instilled that commitment to many in the library field. He will be missed."

He was born March 22, 1945, in Lapeer, Mich., the son of Chris and Isabelle Houghtaling Rauh. He graduated with a master's degree from Western Michigan University. He was the director of the Jackson County libraries and retired after 25 years of service and was an active member of the Jackson County Historical Society. Ed has opened up his home and heart to foreign exchange students for the past 13 years. He enjoyed gardening and bird watching. With Ed's struggles from his kidney condition and a successful kidney transplant, he would like for all to seriously consider organ donation.

He is survived by his parents, Chris and Isabelle Rauh; his wife, Ann Rauh of the home; a son, Michael Rauh of Gathersburg, Md., who is serving in the U.S. Army; a daughter, Sheryl Rauh Thompson and her husband, Roger, and their children, Bradi, Kyle and Katie, of Parkersburg; three brothers, Doug of Washington state, and Dale and Lyle of Michigan; and one sister, Kathy of Michigan.

Funeral services Saturday, October 8, at Grace Episcopal Church, Ravenswood, with Mother Marie Mulford officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Jackson County libraries or the Jackson County Humane Society. Friends may express their condolences to the Rauh family at roush1us2000@yahoo.com.

National Book Festival

by Jane Levitan

Reading is alive and well in our nation. Anyone in doubt did not attend the National Book Festival on Saturday, September 24, on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush, the festival offers an impressive array of authors, books and ideas for children, teens and adults.

The "Pavilion of States" was the venue for every state in the union to shine by showcasing their authors, books and libraries. West Virginia's display was hosted by our own Library Commission/West Virginia Center for the Book representatives Karen Goff and Suzy McGinley with the help of Jane Levitan from the Martinsburg Public Library and members of the Washington, DC Junior League. Our featured series was Phyllis Reynolds Naylor's "Shiloh Trilogy". Ms. Naylor signed autographs and met her fans before attending other scheduled presentations. West Virginia stood out from all the other states by being the only one to offer dog biscuits in addition to book information, flyers, stickers, and travel information. (Shiloh would have been proud!)

There were so many choices of authors to see from R.L. Stine to David McCullough. Virtually every genre was included. West Virginia was also represented by the impressive Walter Dean Myers in the "Teen and Children's" venue. Library of Congress offered free CD's on their history. National Endowment for the Arts featured free CD's on teaching Shakespeare, national poetry recitation contest and "Project Homecoming", an initiative to encourage returning veterans for the Iraqi war and their families to tell their stories. Target, the "Distinguished Benefactor" provided two essentials, a cushion for alternative seating and water. There was truly something for everyone. Check it out on the Library of Congress website, www.loc.gov.



Bookmobile/Rural Library Conference report

September 7-9, 2005 • Columbus, OH

by Margaret Demer

100 Years of Bookmobiles in Washington Co., Maryland

Mary Baykon, director of the Washington County Public Library in Hagerstown, MD presented an illustrated history of the first bookmobile service in the United States, which began in 1905. The idea was the concept of the first librarian of the Washington County Public Library in Hagerstown, Maryland, Mary Titcomb, who was a transplanted New Englander. Her goal was to take the books to the people not force the people to come to the library.

Titcomb first created book deposits in country stores, individual homes, and community centers but soon moved on to a horse drawn book cart. The horse pulled cart gave way in 1912 to the first motorized book cart.

Along the way Mary Titcomb also began a training program for librarians at the Hagerstown library and wrote professional papers. More information about Mary Titcomb and the history of the bookmobile may be found at www.whilbr.org. —continued on page 9



The latest in 100 years of bookmobiles

Bookmobile —continued from page 8

Starting and Sustaining a Bookmobile

This session provided a strong dose of reality for many at the conference and cured some of the understandable "showroom fever" that occurs when one sees the floor models for the first time. Bookmobiles are beautiful creations. Some have the lush interior of a private club reading room. Others are designed for children and have detachable play

panels that resemble the very best wooden toys for preschoolers. It becomes difficult to separate what the library actually needs from what looks like sensory overdrive.

This presentation was so practical that everyone who is considering a bookmobile or re-evaluating their current bookmobile service should talk with Tracy Trotter of the Adams Memorial Library of Latrobe, PA. The advice "Slow down, ask questions, get a second opinion, and double check each step of the way." was backed up by the actual experiences of the Library.

The Adams Memorial Library named their bookmobile MO and they were able to secure some funding from two native sons, Fred Rodgers and Arnold Palmer. Before actually ordering MO, locations for bookmobile stops had been found, grants had been written, municipalities approached, and specs had been designed. Bids were reviewed and the final choice made in the winter of 2001.

Critical to the successful completion of the bookmobile were site visits to the factory while MO was being constructed. Each visit located a problem that could be corrected before the final acceptance of the vehicle, saving time and money. The Adams Library also recommended hiring consultants to advise and help oversee the design of the outside of the bookmobile.

The driver and accompanying circulation staff were trained at the Adams County Library circulation desk before actually going on the road. Both work with the patrons and have to know the collection as well as the schedule and stops.

The Adams County Library treats the bookmobile as a full branch library and designed the bookmobile to be lovely inside and out. Daily maintenance includes washing MO as well as cleaning her interior. MO is a traveling billboard for the library and attends many community functions.

Two problem areas are MO's generator which will be replaced this year and the need for a substitute driver. For the Adams County Library the bookmobile out performs in circulation the two other branch libraries combined. The initial expense may be carried by grants and fund raising, but the continuing expenses must be budgeted as for any other branch plus the expenses of a company vehicle.

This was a cautionary session and while it did not assuage enthusiasm it did prompt more research and greater preparation than may have been thought necessary before the conference.

Managing Rural and Small Libraries for the Future

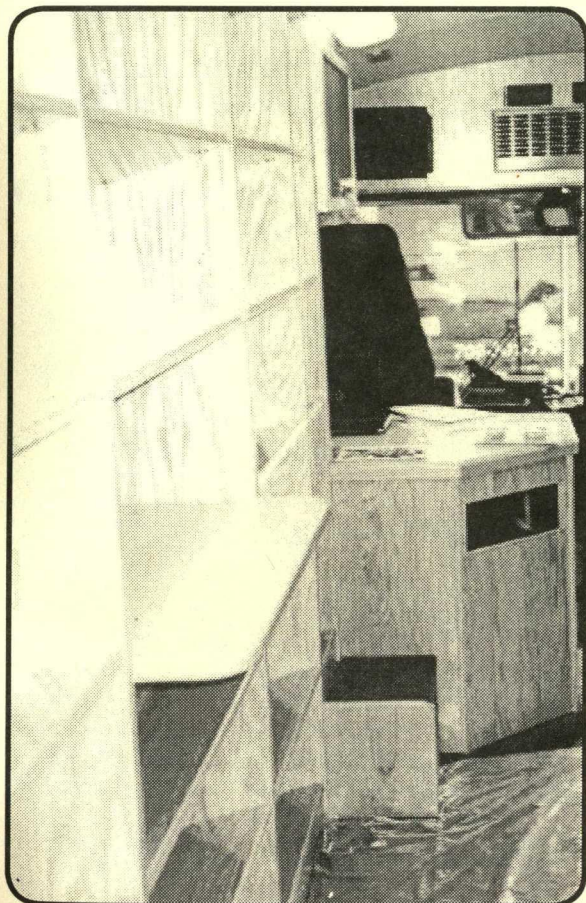
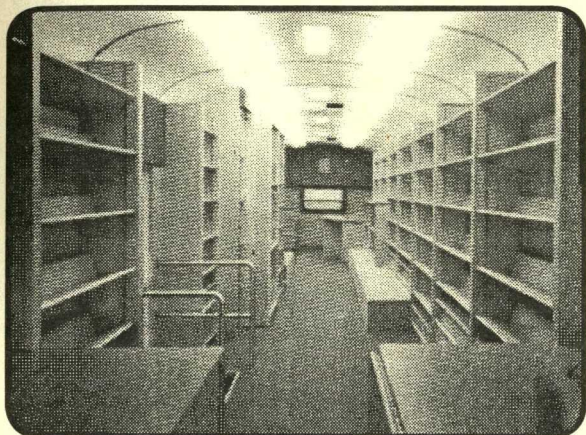
James Rancillo is the Director of the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library in Vassar, Michigan. After listening to his presentation about the variety and broad spectrum of the programming he does at this small library, one could also describe him as a musical artist director, a teen advocate, an early childhood specialist, a community promoter, social services worker and a recreational designer. Rancillo thinks outside the box on a daily basis and because he does his library has a winter concert series that pulls two hundred listeners into the aisles between bookcases, on every available chair, and propped on all surfaces. The concerts are free and range from piano to big band, jazz and blues.

Rancillo has a toy checkout section in the library because he mentioned it to someone as something to try in the future. One day the future arrived and \$2,000 was found to start the collection. Grandparents are the most consistent users, checking out toys when grandchildren arrive for a visit.

Then there was the bridal show; the pet fair with area veterinarians, groomers, and trainers; the teen mystery night, the Bob the Builder party, and the story read-in featuring the local ice hockey team. As one area man responded, when asked how the local librarian got to be the president of the area Chamber of Commerce, "Jim has twisted the arm of everyone in this room."

Rancillo's theory is "ask, the worst that

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Bookmobile —continued from page 9

can happen is that someone will say no." That is how Vassar got its bookmobile. The need for outreach during the summer was there but the money for a bookmobile was not. For a while Rancillo borrowed a van from the school system to take books to children unable to get to the library summer reading program. Books in boxes and a card table worked for several seasons but the local prison for young offenders and families lacking time or means to travel to town needed library services all year round. The local fire department had a 1982 emergency vehicle in moth balls, but it needed to be remodeled to allow patrons to use it as a bookmobile. Rancillo is not afraid to ask and the local stretch limo manufacturing company offered to build the bookmobile at no cost.

Rancillo proves that even a library with a full time staff of two and two part-time

people can accomplish amazing things if they dare to try almost anything. As Rancillo noted, the mission statement of Bullard Sanford Memorial Library is "... to contribute to the quality of life..."

Programming for Adults

The Capital Area District Library in Lansing, Michigan has an ambitious outreach services program headed by Bill Nelton, the presenter of the session on Adult Programming. Among the services Nelton heads is the bookmobile, thirty-three book nooks (depository collections), Books-by-Mail to over fifty patrons, refugee services to teenagers from around the world, and reminiscing programs for intergenerational group talks.

While few rural and small libraries will be called to the extensive refugee work done in Lansing, more libraries face providing services for communities and families needing ESL classes, literacy help and directories of community service

organizations for non-English speaking individuals. The goal of Nelton's program is to provide a safe place for those needing refuge and assistance.

Books-by-Mail and the Book Nooks in senior citizens residences, community centers, and the county jail provide library services to those unable to get to the area libraries. Many of those getting books by mail are avid readers right to the day they die. In 2004, 839 bags of library materials including audio books, VCRs and DVDs and books were mailed to 164 patrons.

The Reminiscing Presentations are sessions with small groups of people using the BiFolkal program. These kits contain a video or slide show, song books, memorabilia, and other aids to encourage the exchange of memories from the participants. Designed to be checked out by groups or families, Nelton also takes these kits to seniors groups for a library sponsored program. Topics range from the Great Depression to cars and fashion.

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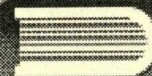
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Snapshots from the conference



▲ Booksale shoppers

◀ Jane Levitan at the booksale



Shopping ▶

Registration table ▼



Events

OCTOBER

22-23 West Virginia Book Festival
Charleston, WV

NOVEMBER

4 W.Va. Library Commission Meeting
Charleston, WV
11-12 Apple Valley Book Festival
Martinsburg, WV
14-20 Children's Book Week

DECEMBER

Happy Holidays!

JANUARY

20-25 ALA Midwinter
San Antonio, TX

FEBRUARY

Love Your Library month

MARCH

20-25 PLA National Conference
Boston, MA

APRIL

2-8 National Library Week
Change Your World @ Your Library
5-7 Tennessee Library Association and
Southeastern Library Association (SELA)
Joint Conference
Memphis, TN

NOTE:

The dates for the West Virginia Library Commission are tentative. Please check with the WVLC web site for the exact date, time, agenda and minutes at www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us.

A note from the editor

West Virginia Libraries

welcomes suggestions for articles from librarians, support staff, trustees and friends.

Articles may be submitted in writing, typewritten, by e-mail or on computer disk. If submitting material on computer disk, please use 3-1/2 disk and save your file to disk as an ASCII file and submit a hard copy (printout) of the material on the disk.

Article Submission Schedule:

January 15 for February issue
March 15 for April issue
May 15 for June issue
July 15 for August issue
September 15 for October issue
November 15 for December issue

WVLA Membership Information

To become a member of the West Virginia Library Association, contact:

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